

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 19 and 21-28 are now pending in this application. Claims 3 and 4 are withdrawn. Claims 2, 5-8, 11-14 and 17-20 are rejected. Claims 6, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 20 are cancelled. Claims 1, 9-10 and 15-16 are previously cancelled. New claims 21-28 are added. Claim 5 is amended herein to clarify the invention and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

Applicant herein traverses and respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims cited in the above-referenced Office Action.

Claims 2, 5-7 and 13 (and presumably also claims 12 and 18-20) are rejected as obvious over Shimizu et al. (JP 60-171234) in view of Budinski et al. (US 6,305,194) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 6 and 13 are cancelled, rendering their rejections moot. The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection as pertaining to remaining claims 2, 5, 7, 12 and 19. For a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to be sustained, the differences between the features of the combined references and the present invention must be obvious to one skilled in the art.

Independent claim 5 is amended, and now recites that a receiving area bounded by a radial boundary of an opening in the restrictor is greater than a corresponding area occupied by the lens preform prior to compression molding, thereby defining a gap between a periphery of the lens preform and an inner peripheral surface defining the radial boundary.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Shimizu reference (JP 60-171234), unlike the claimed invention as amended, exclusively shows and discloses a preform of a size conforming identically to the interior area defined by the inward facing circular cylindrical side parts, thereby not permitting any radially outward flow of the lens preform. Therefore, the Shimizu reference is respectfully argued as only being enabling for a preform of a size exactly conforming to the interior defined by an interior of the circular cylindrical side parts, thereby not permitting any radial flow of the glass preform. Indeed, this would make sense, since the annular upper space in Shimizu is only made necessary because no radial room to take up the displaced volume of the compressed preform is provided.

The secondary Budinski reference (US 6,305,184) has no restraining means whatsoever, and therefore could not provide guidance as to where to place a boundary to prevent further radial flow beyond a restraining boundary. Therefore the proffered combination of references fails to teach or suggest all claimed elements, as properly required for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are not obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 2, 5, 7, 12 and 19 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 14 are rejected as obvious over Shimizu et al. (JP 60-171234) in view of Budinski et al. (US 6,305,194), and further in view of Takagi et al. (US 5,817,616) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 14 is cancelled, rendering its rejection

moot. The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection as pertaining to claim 8.

It is respectfully submitted that the proffered combination of references cannot render the rejected claims obvious because the secondary Takagi et al. reference does not provide the teaching noted above with respect to the obviousness rejection of claim 5 that is absent from the Shimizu et al. and Budinski et al. references. Takagi et al. fails to teach “compression molding being effective to force material of the lens preform radially outward to contact the inner peripheral surface,” as claimed. Thus, the combination of prior art references fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejections of claim 8 and its allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 17 are rejected as obvious over Shimizu et al. (JP 60-171234) in view of Budinski et al. (US 6,305,194), and further in view of Ikeuchi et al. (JP 03-146427) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 17 is cancelled, rendering its rejection moot. The applicant herein respectfully traverses this rejection as pertaining to claim 11.

It is respectfully submitted that the proffered combination of references cannot render the rejected claims obvious because the Ikeuchi et al. reference does not provide the teaching noted above with respect to the obviousness rejection of claim 5 that is absent from the Shimizu et al. and Budinski et al. references. Thus, the combination of prior art references fails to teach or suggest all the claim

limitations. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejections of claim 11 and its allowance are respectfully requested.

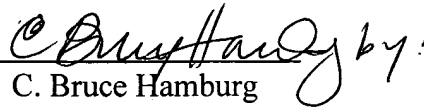
Claims 21-28 are added and are submitted as patentable over the cited art of record. Independent claim 21 recites subject matter directed to a receiving area bounded by an inner peripheral surface of a restrictor being greater than a corresponding area occupied by a lens preform prior to compression molding, thereby defining a gap between a periphery of the lens preform and the inner peripheral surface, wherein the compression molding is effective to force material of the lens preform radially outward to contact the inner peripheral surface, the inner peripheral surface operating to prevent the material of the lens preform from escaping in a direction perpendicular to a compression direction of the lens preform which, among other features recited therein, is not believed disclosed in the cited art in the manner as claimed. Dependent claims 22-28 are patentable based on the subject matter recited therein in addition to the subject matter of claim 21.

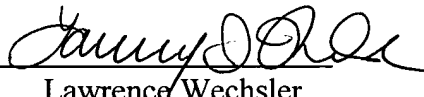
Applicant respectfully requests a two (2) month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$490 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form
for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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